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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Postponing Responsibility” – Ron Cody

ANNCR: April 26th, “Postponing Responsibility.” I’m sure you’ve had those days where you’ve said to yourself, “I can’t do any more.” Maybe the day’s been filled with challenging situations, you’re especially tired, or you’ve just had it up to here. The responsibilities in front of us can feel daunting and exhausting. Whether these are the on-going duties of the “daily grind” or unique challenges that loom ahead of us, it’s not uncommon to want to shirk the responsibility. When we can see that the road ahead looks bumpy, we may find ourselves looking for the off-ramp. Well, today, we’ll meet a man who tried to shirk any responsibility as long as he could...until it caught up with him. He’s here to share his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

RON: All my life I challenged authority, ignored responsibility and lived as if there were no tomorrow. My name is Ron Cody.

My dad taught me play pool, but I taught myself to drink and steal. I was on probation most of my teenage years. I traded, sold and used drugs, every kind you can name, including synthetic

morphine. With friends I drifted to Florida, then Texas, working to buy drugs, stealing to eat. I was in more bar fights and jails than I want to remember.

I finally gave up drugs and alcohol, but not before they destroyed my marriage. I was deeply depressed. For nine months I ignored a dark spot on my shoulder. By the time I went to the doctor and he removed the cancer, it had spread to my brain. I had two brain tumors removed and went to a clinic every day for treatment. That's where I met a wonderful girl who invited me to church. She told me how Jesus had changed her life.

On Sunday I went with her and I heard the gospel. It hit me hard and I gave my life to Christ. I found peace for the first time. When the doctor removed a third brain tumor, I had no fear because Jesus promises to never leave you or forsake you. I'm not able to work now, but I love to tell of God's love on the streets and in nursing homes.

ANNCR: King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes chapter 11, verse 4, "*Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.*" Friend, this verse teaches the truth that we never really shirk responsibility. We never completely outsmart it and get away. We

really only postpone the inevitable. While responsibility does not cease to exist, we simply choose not to look at it. And if it is ignored, when it becomes visible again, it brings with it repercussions that may be too late to fix – just as Rod discovered. “Whoever looks at the clouds” will find themselves without food when they need it. God has allotted us certain responsibilities each day for a purpose. Are you living in this truth today?

CREDITS: Unshackled Daily Devotionals are produced by Pacific Garden Mission along with our Unshackled Audio Dramas. To find even more true stories of God’s saving, transforming power, visit our website, unshackled.org.

This episode was written by Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Rick Dianovsky.

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